

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 15, after the Brief Summary of the Invention beginning at page 3, with the following redlined paragraph:

The solution idea at the basis of the present invention is that of associating respective snap or ~~fast-etch~~-connection elements with the finishing and support elements of the protection structure, which allow an individual to assemble, by a simple manual clutch, the finish profile on the support with possibility of side release.

Please replace paragraph 19 beginning at page 3, with the following redlined paragraph:

at least a ~~fast-etch~~-connection with a tenon and mortise joint including a tenon element, fixed to said profile, and a mortise element, intended for being fixed to the hull; said tenon element and said mortise element having respective tenons and mortises being mutually engaged in a longitudinally sliding manner, thus obtaining a simplified assembly of the protection structure.

Please replace paragraph 32 beginning at page 5, with the following redlined paragraph:

A plurality of fixing means 7 are provided for the simplified ~~fast-etch~~-connection assembly of the profile 4 on the longitudinal support 8. These means 7 are regularly distributed along said molding 4, but nothing forbids that they can be provided with irregular alternation.

Please replace paragraph 33 beginning at page 5, with the following redlined paragraph:

Advantageously, as best illustrated in Figure 2, the above fixing means 7 comprise at least a ~~fast-etch~~-connection with a tenon and mortise joint 10 (Figure 3) wherein a tenon element 11 is fixed to said profile 4 and a mortise element 12 is intended for being fixed to the hull 2. More in particular, the mortise element 12 is associated with the basement 8 being constrained to the border 5 of the hull 2.

Please replace paragraph 39 beginning at page 6, with the following redlined paragraph:

This block comprises a ~~material shortage~~ hollow area 15 for housing a nut 16 for a fixing stud 17 of the tenon element constrained by welding on the inner surface 19 of the profile 4, *i.e.*, the surface facing the basement 8.

Please replace paragraph 41 beginning at page 6, with the following redlined paragraph:

Advantageously, the screw 21 is long enough also to allow the basement 8 to be fixed on the border 5 of the hull 2 through a hole 9, but caused in this case by the only passage of the self-threading screw 21. In this way, during the assembly of the structure according to the invention, and in particular during a housing of the mortise blocks 12 into the groove 25, it is possible to fix by means of a single operation both the basement 8 to the border 5 and the mortise blocks 12 into the groove 25. Also the section crop of the mortise 12 provides a central ~~material shortage~~ hollow area 22, in correspondence with the hole 20.

Please replace paragraph 42 beginning at page 6, with the following redlined paragraph:

The tenon element 11 and the mortise element 12 are preferably made of nylon and the presence of the respective ~~material shortages~~ hollow areas 15 and 22 allows to make these elements more easily adaptable to the curve taken by the profile 4 in the coupling with the basement 8 and with the convex border 5 of the hull 2.

Please replace paragraph 43 beginning at page 6, with the following redlined paragraph:

Moreover, the ~~material shortage~~ hollow area 15 embeds the fixing nut 16 of the tenon element 11 to the profile 4, whereas the ~~material shortage~~ hollow area 22 embeds the screw head 21 so that the nuts 16 and the screws 21 never interfere under any operative condition.

Please replace paragraph 56 beginning at page 8, with the following redlined paragraph:

Finally, it is worth noting that the peculiar conformation of the blocks of the tenon 11 and mortise 12 elements, provided with central ~~material-shortage~~ hollow area, is easily adaptable to the curve taken by the profile 4 in the coupling with the basement 8 and with the convex border 5 of the hull 2.